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Minister expressed satisfaction for ongoing projects



ORANJESTAD -- Last week the Prime Minister, Minister of Public Works and other experts visited the various construction sites of the Plan BoAruba projects and the Green Corridor project.

With respect to the cycling trails, Minister Sievinger said that that project has their full attention. According to Sievinger, ever since the construction of roads for automobiles eons ago, they failed to include cycle trails for bicycles and only concentrated on automobiles getting from one point to the other. But, he says, the world has changed and many countries have had a change of mind. We are now concerned about those who must walk and those who want to travel by bicycle.

In our new barrios, the government is planning to create roads which travel in one direction (one-way roads) so that people could walk more freely and children could play on the side walks. With adequate security and communal aspects this would make these barrios more "liveable," claims Minister Sievinger.

Linear Park Project:

According to Sievinger, just like the Green Corridor, the Linear Park concept is nothing new. Many previous governments have talked about these projects, but none made them a matter of priority. The Linear Park project consists of 7 phases. We are currently occupied with phase one. Before the end of this year we hope to embark on phases two and three.



Each phase will be executed as separate projects. A contractor who won the bid on phase one, will not necessarily get phase two or the other phases for his account. Sievinger expressed praise for

the efficient way that the project is proceeding and is very pleased with the work completed thus far.

The minister remarked that this type of work is quite different from building a house. Reason being that in this type of project there are so many things to take into consideration, with existing trees, pipelines and cables under ground which are discovered only after you begin excavating. This obviously can slow down the work and at times also may complicate the process.

After working away some of the problems of communication between the Utility companies regarding the underground material, they are now on the same track and moving forward with one ob-

jective....to deliver a top quality product within the confines of the budget. At the end of it all it is the community who stands to benefit from this project, says Sievinger.

Senior Citizen's Home gets renovated in its 'senior' years!



SAVANETA --The "senior" building of Maris Stella in Savaneta, which has been serving as a senior citizens home, built in 1954, and serving seniors since 1970, is finally getting renovated after more than 40 years....in its "senior" years!

Work on the home will commence in August and is expected to take one year to be completed. The Fondo Desaroyo Aruba (FDA) will inject some 4 million Florins in the renovation of the building. Work will be carried out by the well-experienced BOHAMA company. This renovation project once complete, will create about 90 new rooms for the care of our senior citizens.

As mentioned earlier, the building was built back in 1954 and around 1970 Sister Leonie converted it into a Senior Citizens Home. They later constructed a new sec-

tion to accommodate more seniors in the home. After the construction and adaptation of the building, it never received any maintenance whatsoever all these more than 40 years!

About two years ago, DOW had to condemn the original section of the building and SABA (the foundation managing the home) was obliged to evacuate 34 seniors and move them to the San Pedro de Verona home in Oranjestad. Hence, the Maris Stella Home had to reduce the amount of seniors from 98 to 64 who could live in the home.

After many months of negotiations and preparation, the government has succeeded in procuring funding for the total project and the FDA has budgeted 4 million Florins for the total renovation of the home.

Continued on page 5

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Petraeus warns of deteriorating US-Pakistan relations



PARIS. (AFP) - US General David Petraeus admitted Wednesday there was no option but to work on troubled relations with Pakistan, days after standing down from his job at the helm of coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Speaking in Paris on his way to his new job as CIA chief, the most celebrated military leader of his generation

said Afghanistan's neighbour wanted to eliminate Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants but was struggling.

"They'll be the first to say that there are limits to how much they can do," said the man who headed the United States' longest-running war for the last year, with less territory controlled by militants today but civilian deaths up.

Petraeus said Pakistani anti-militant operations have been impressive but they "clearly need further effort to deal with some of the other elements, like the Qaeda network in North Waziristan and the Taliban in Baluchistan".

"This relationship is in a difficult stage," Petraeus said, blaming WikiLeaks revelations, the arrest of CIA agent Raymond Davis as well as the killing by US forces of Al-Qaeda kingpin Osama Bin

Laden in Pakistan in May.

He said it was believable that Pakistani intelligence did not know that Bin Laden was hiding out in Abbottabad, home to much of the Pakistani military establishment, when he was killed there.

Petraeus oversaw a surge of tens of thousands of troops into Afghanistan in a last-ditch bid to reverse a nearly 10-year Taliban insurgency and repeat the success of a similar surge he masterminded in Iraq.

But with Taliban leaders not currently wanting to join the political process in Afghanistan, Petraeus said US and Afghan authorities should work on what he said was militants' creeping dissatisfaction with their commanders.

Despite wanting to improve relations with Pakistan, Petraeus is likely in his new job as CIA chief, which he starts in September, to escalate the United States' covert drone war against militants in Pakistan.

Serbia arrests last war crimes fugitive Hadzic



BELGRADE.(AFP) - Serbia on Wednesday arrested Goran Hadzic, the one-time Croatian Serb rebel leader accused of overseeing mass murder and the last remaining fugitive wanted by the UN war crimes court in The Hague.

Hadzic, 52, faces 14 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes for the murder of hundreds of civilians and the deportation of tens of thousands of Croats by troops under his command during the 1991-95 Croatian war.

The European Union hailed the arrest as an "important" step forward in Serbia's bid for EU membership while Serbian President Boris Tadic said it

was the end of a "difficult" chapter in Belgrade's dealings with The Hague court.

The United States said his arrest was a "milestone for the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and an opportunity for justice".

Within hours of the arrest, a pale Hadzic was brought before Serbia's national war crimes court in Belgrade, which ruled he could be extradited to The Hague. His lawyer, Toma Fila, said he would not lodge an appeal and that Hadzic could be transferred within the next few days.

Hadzic's arrest comes less than two months after Serbian authorities finally captured wartime Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic, the UN court's most wanted fugitive.

He is wanted for the massacre by Croatian Serb troops under his command of 250 Croats and other non-Serbs taken from a hospital in Vukovar after the city fell to Serbian troops following a three-month siege in November 1991.

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British tourist shot dead on Venezuelan island

CARACAS. (AFP) - A British tourist was shot dead on the Venezuelan resort island of Margarita after resisting a robbery attempt by four people at his hotel, authorities said Wednesday.

According to the statement, Thomas Ossel, 28, of London was shot several times Monday night after refusing to surrender his valuables to the robbers.

Ossel's brother, Jack, 21, was wounded in the back with a knife during the attack as he tried to defend his brother.

Witnesses said four people posing as tourists looking for a

room at the Casa Rosa Inn first subdued the innkeepers, then, armed with a pistol, began moving from room to room seeking money and valuables from the guests.

When the assailants entered the room where the two brothers were staying, they refused to surrender their valuables and Thomas Ossel was shot repeatedly.

Local prosecutors said the suspects were able to flee the scene before the police arrived.

Margarita is a major Venezuelan tourist destination, although in the last year, four tourists have died there.

New sex claims stir up Strauss-Kahn scandal

PARIS. (AFP) - The scandal over attempted rape charges against Dominique Strauss-Kahn deepened Wednesday after the mother of one of his accusers revealed she had herself previously had sex with him.

Anne Mansouret, an elected official in Strauss-Kahn's Socialist party, was quoted by several French media talking of a sexual encounter with him in 2000 in an office of the OECD economic body where he worked at the time.

Mansouret, 65, confirmed in Wednesday's edition of the daily Liberation there was an

incident in the OECD office but declined to give details and said it had only happened once.

Banon, Mansouret's daughter accuses Strauss-Kahn of trying to rape her in 2003 as she tried to interview him for a book. Mansouret has admitted she discouraged her daughter from bringing charges for fear Banon's journalism career would suffer.

Strauss-Kahn's New York case has derailed his electoral hopes as previously favourite to beat President Nicolas Sarkozy in the 2012 presidential election.

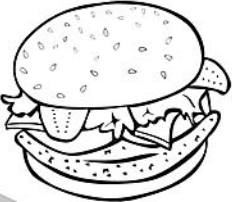
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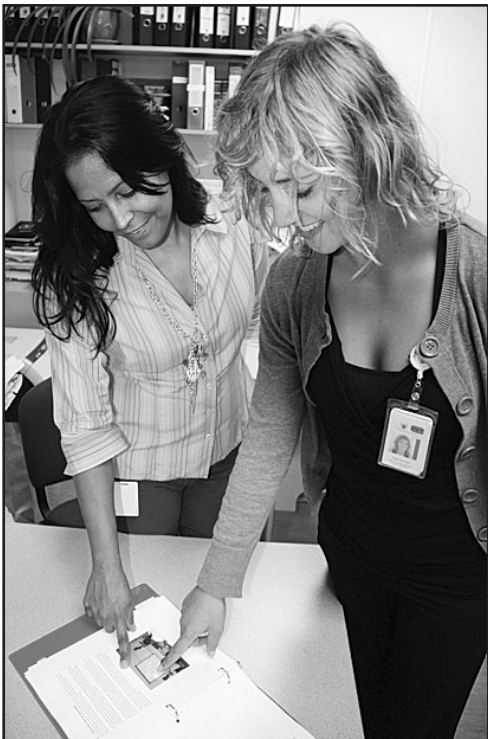
Aruba Hospital renews and crystalizes emergency plan

ORANJESTAD -- Just recently the Aruba Hospital presented the final version of their revised Hospital emergency plan. This is a professional and elaborate emergency plan for both internal and external calamities.

Miss Sally van Vliet made what was considered a very interesting presentation of the plan. Miss van Vliet is an intern in the Financial Department at the Hospital. Her presentation was made in the presence of the Supervisory Board, the Calamity Team, the Crisis Team and care managers and other staff managers of the Hospital.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide concrete information concerning the new emergency plan. The new plan is extremely detailed, making it sometimes not interesting to some departments. However, to facilitate the process they choose to adapt the contents of the presentation to correspond to each department in the Hospital.

They made use of the Emergency Handbook prepared by the government of Aruba along with the Nether-



lands. This Handbook was completely revised to match the organization of our Hospital. They classified the different types of calamities into levels depending on the size of the calamity, and to employ the help of other calamity organizations on the island. The Hospital's revised emergency plan goes into effect within the next weeks.

The Supervisory Board of the Hospital and their entire staff are very pleased with this initiative, because they know that a good emergency plan for our Hospital is a major priority.

Venezuela tops world oil reserves

BOGOTA, Colombia -- -- Venezuela's proven oil reserves have surpassed Saudi Arabia's for the first time, making it the most oil-rich nation in the world, according to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

In its 2010-2011 Annual Statistical Bulletin, OPEC said Venezuela's proven oil reserves spiked 40 percent in 2010 to reach 297 billion barrels. Saudi Arabia, the long-time leader in the category, had 265 billion barrels of proven reserves, according to the online report, which will

be published in November.

During his 12 years in office, President Hugo Chávez has used the nation's oil wealth and the state run PDVSA oil company to finance his "21st Century Socialism" and bankroll projects in allied countries such as Cuba, Haiti, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

The new reserves are being fueled by finds in the existing fields of Barcelona, Maracaibo and Barinas, as well as off-shore projects and in the Orinoco, Venezuela's Ministry of Communication

and Information.

But the figures are also a matter of debate. About one-third of Venezuela's reserves are extra heavy crude, which is difficult to extract and only economically feasible to recover when the long-term price of oil is above about \$70 a barrel, said Jorge Piñon, a research fellow at Florida International University and the former President of Amoco Latin America.

The cash-strapped PDVSA may have trouble raising the funds to tap that oil, he said.

US heartland suffers under killer heat, humidity

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) - A searing heatwave brought summer misery to the American heartland and caused more than a dozen deaths as it blanketed up to 17 US states in soaring temperatures and oppressive humidity.

The weather is responsible for at least 13 deaths in the central United States, which has seen a string of days with temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius), according to officials.

The heat has been coupled with near record humidity -- a miserable combination that forecasters said would persist into next week.

A National Weather Service spokesman told AFP that more than 1,000 heat records had been broken across the



Tourists sit in the midday heat outside the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center in Washington

United States in the past month.

Across the Great Lakes re-

gion, the most extreme temperatures are expected to arrive today.



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Fantastic Polesitting amount for Fundacion Nos Comunidad



The 2011 Polesitting Championship at Café the Plaza saw its culmination yesterday afternoon when the total amount of this fundraising activity was announced. Hans Nooter, owner of Café the Plaza, was very pleased to hand over a giant cheque with AWG. 17,165.86 written on it to Claudie Wegdam of the Fundacion Nos Comunidad, the Food Bank of Aruba. The handing over of the cheque was done in the company of the female polesitters. Not all of them could be present: 18-year old Lorenzo Stoc was not there as he had started a new job.

The 2011 Polesitting Championships were quite eventful, reminisced Claudie Wegdam, referring to problems with the roof over the polesitters' heads after a sudden downpour and the blackout which more or less ruined the finale of the record-breaking 871/2 hours that Liesbeth Cornes (30) and Michelle Faassen (24) sat on their poles. However, all the hardships were forgotten when the winners received tickets to Curaçoa courtesy of DAE and Discovery Travel, a weekend stay at the Marriott Resort and dinner at Ruth Chris. For Marianne Groeneweld (26), who stayed on her pole for 56 hours, there was a

workshop in glass bead making; Lorenzo Stoc received a gift certificate from Oduber and Kan.

From June 2 – 5 Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace was the place where it was all happening: volunteers of the Fundacion Nos Comunidad were busy organizing games and raffles to get funds, the sitters sat on their poles and lots of people came by to cheer on the sitters. Part of the proceeds of the polesitters formed part of the total amount as did the profit of the outside bar, which was open 24 hours a day. Live music drew crowds and the atmosphere was, once again, terrific.

As the final photographs of the festive occasion at Café the Plaza were taken, journalists asked 4-time champion Liesbeth Cornes whether she would participate in the 2012 championships next year, but she shook her head. "I've had enough of sitting," she said. Michelle Faassen, however, said that it had not been all that hard after all. She added: "The hardest part came afterwards, when my mom took me horseback riding! My behind was still so sore, I could hardly sit down in the saddle."

Playa Linda adopts Aruba Food Bank

As part of ongoing efforts to provide valuable assistance to the community, the Playa Linda Beach Resort has named the Aruba Food Bank as the recipient of regular donations made by its members and guests. General Manager Jan van Nes recently presented the first check to Aruba Food Bank Coordinator Claudie Wegdam. The check, representing one month's worth of donations, totaled Afl. 2,183.40, a sum that will provide seven to ten days worth of food to approximately 85 disadvantaged people in Aruba.

"Playa Linda's mission is to be a 'home away from home' for its members, guests and employees alike as well as a role model within our community. Our members and guests agreed to support the Aruba Food Bank in ensuring that at-risk families in Aruba do not go hungry," explains Playa Linda



Through the program, Playa Linda was able to raise almost \$16,000 for the Red Cross office in Aruba. The Playa Linda, working together with "Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad" (Foundation for Our Community) or FPNC, which runs the Aruba Food Bank, hopes to be similarly successful. A post-

monthly base, providing a food package that contains enough for three meals per day for more than a week. However, FPNC calculates that around 1,200 families, representing about 4,000 children and adults, are in need of its assistance. FPNC currently works with local wholesalers with which they have cost price agreements. The foundation guarantees that for every dollar donated, at least 93 cents of that sum goes to the purchase of food products.

FPNC works together with all professional and volunteer organizations with the same or related objective in fighting poverty. Along with managing a Food Bank, FPNC also focuses on education and reintegration efforts in order to assist families in getting back up on their own feet again as soon as possible.

"Only through cooperation can we change the lives of the less fortunate," comments FPNC's Claudine Wegdam.

For more information about the Aruba Food Bank, visit the FPNC website at fpncaruba.com or visit them on Facebook at facebook.com/FPNCAruba.

**With your hand on our heart
for the Food Bank of Aruba!**

Aruba, One Happy Island - unfortunately knows 'hidden poverty' as well. Every month around 1200 families (±4,000 people) cannot meet their basic needs. The Foundation of the Community (FPNC) founded the Food Bank in July 2009 and is helping over 700 families on a monthly basis. To be able to continue their work they have to increase their monthly Sustainability.

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GM Jan van Nes.

Through a voluntary donation program through which Playa Linda's members and guests can choose to donate one dollar for each room night, funds are raised to support local non-profit organizations.

card, displaying the resort as well as the FPNC logo, was developed with FPNC's Claudie Wegdam, for use by Playa Linda's members and guests.

The Food Bank already helps over 600 families on a



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New superbug deaths in Rotterdam hospital

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands -- Four patients in the Maasstad Hospital in Rotterdam died after contracting the multiple resistant bacteria the hospital has been battling since September.

The bacteria is an oxa-48 producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Oxa-48 is the name of the enzyme which makes the bacteria resistant against practically all antibiotics.

So far, 70 patients have been infected, 25 of whom have since died.

A commission led by Leiden University Professor Evert de Jonge has launched an investigation into the files of all deceased patients to determine to what extent the bacteria was responsible for their deaths. The recent deaths are proof that a series of measures taken over the past few weeks to bring the outbreak under control have failed.

The Maasstad Hospital initially kept quiet about the *Klebsiella pneumoniae* infection and allegedly did not take adequate measures to address the situation until after the health inspectorate forced it to do so.

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment has sent experts to assist the Maasstad Hospital doctors.

Senior Citizen's Home gets renovated in its 'senior' years!

Continued from page 1



They will change the ceiling, widen doorways, build individual bathrooms in each room, and change all floor tiles and so much more. They will be required to renew the entire electrical wiring and replace this with a modern electrical system. While BOHAMA won the bid and will be in charge of all the work, BK Consult will supervise

the entire process.

The work is to be executed with all the seniors in the home, hence working around the seniors so that they will not be required to move.

Minister Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer visited the home on the weekend to ascertain what the situation is today and what are the jobs to be undertaken during the re-



novation.

Together with the White Yellow Cross and other institutions the government is doing everything in their power to offer support and guidance to those seniors who want to continue living in their own homes. Maris Stella in the past constructed 17 individual homes on their premises for those who

don't require special care who want to live on their own.

The SABA foundation has a waiting list of about 225 seniors who want to be taken cared for in one of our 3 senior citizens' homes. Once this home is renovated a year from now, and the new center in San Nicolaas becomes operative, together with the 17



individual units on the Mari Stella premises, we will have created space for 87 more seniors, according to the Minister of Social Affairs.

Hooyboer-Winklaar remarked... "I am very proud to say that we are making great advances in the improvement of the quality of life of our seniors."

Sci-Tech

Apple unleashes Lion, updates MacBook Air



California -- Apple on Wednesday unleashed its new Lion operating system, running it on updated, more powerful versions of its MacBook Air ultra-thin laptop.

A slew of Apple product releases came as the California company's stock rose on the back of record high net profit and revenue in the quarter ending June 25.

Lion is the latest version

of the Macintosh computer operating system and boasts more than 250 added features including handling multi-touch controls.

Sales of Macintosh computers dramatically outpaced the overall market in the recently-ended quarter and Lion is expected to further ramp up interest in Apple products.

Lion will be pre-installed

on new Macintosh computers and is available for download as an update from the Mac App Store for \$30.

"Lion is the best version of OS X yet, and we're thrilled that users around the world can download it starting today," said Apple senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing Philip Schiller.

Updated MacBook Air laptops feature speedier Intel processors, backlit keyboards, and quicker data ports.

MacBook Air models range in price from \$999 to \$1,599 depending on processor speeds, memory and other features.

Apple also introduced a Thunderbolt Display that serves as a docking station and a high-quality desktop screen for a Mac notebook computer. Thunderbolt Display will be priced at \$999 when it hits the market some time in the coming two months, according to Apple.

Tech Buzz...

RIM loses PlayBook exec to Samsung

As RIM engages in layoffs, weathers investor criticism, and struggles to reassert itself in the mobile industry, the company may be facing something of a brain drain: a senior product manager for RIM's PlayBook tablet, Ryan Bidan, has jumped ship to Samsung Mobile to service as director of product marketing—at least according to his LinkedIn profile.

The move comes barely a month after RIM's chief marketing officer Brain Wallace left the company for Samsung; that defection, in term, followed only a few months after the departure of Keith Pardey, who had headed up RIM's BlackBerry marketing efforts. At the time, RIM did not announce a replacement, instead indicating co-CEO Jim Balsillie would be taking on more promotional duties.

The move comes after the lackluster launch of the BlackBerry PlayBook, which has so far failed to meet sales expectations and has generally been greeted with half-hearted reviews that the device simply was not ready for market.

Japan researchers grow tooth in mouse kidney



TOKYO -- Japanese bio engineers have succeeded in growing a tooth from cells implanted into a mouse kidney, using a technique that could create replacement organs faster than previously tested methods.

Biologists have previously cultivated teeth in a laboratory and successfully transplanted them into the jaws of mice, but Japanese researchers have hailed the latest development as offering much faster growth rates.

The latest method "saves about 10 days" compared to earlier techniques, said Tokyo University of Science professor Takashi Tsuji, who led the research.

"It is our first step towards the goal -- to regenerate organs that could replace damaged or lost ones," he said.

"We still haven't got to the point where it can be used for

humans," he added. "We have just completed our first step."

The research team, including scientists from Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Tohoku University, developed a "seed" by combining special cells necessary to form a tooth, their research showed.

The cells reacted to each other and started growing into tissues to create a real tooth.

The researchers then wrapped the "seed" in a tiny piece of plastic and implanted it in a mouse's kidney, where it grew to form a tooth, the study showed.

When the tooth was substantially developed, they transplanted it to another mouse's gums, confirming it could adapt to the oral environment and connect to nerves and blood vessels as if it was a real tooth, it said.

The mouse would feel pain and stimulation because the regenerative tooth functions just like a real tooth, the researchers said.

The researchers hope that scientists will eventually be able to use the technique to develop fully functioning bio-engineered organs that can replace lost or damaged organs following disease, injury or aging.

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Woman spends \$10,000 on invisible art



Being an art lover can turn into an expensive endeavor, but to lay down some cold hard cash on works that don't even exist is pushing the bounds of art appreciation to its breaking point. New media aficionado Aimee Davison doesn't quite share that same viewpoint and she used her bank account to show it, spending \$10,000 on a piece of non-existent artwork from the Museum of Non-Visible Art (MONA).

The MONA project is the work of artist duo Brainard and Delia Carey, along with actor James Franco.

The most expensive item available for purchase from MONA was a \$10,000 work titled Fresh Air, which is now the property of Ms. Davison.

The work is described as such: "This is a unique piece, only this one is for sale. The air you are purchasing is like buying an endless tank of oxygen. No matter where you are, you always have the ability to take a breath of the most delicious, clean-smelling air that the earth can produce. Every breath you take gives you endless peace and health. This artwork is something to carry with you if you own it. Because wherever you are, you can imagine yourself getting the most beautiful taste of air that is from the mountain tops or fields or from the ocean side; it is an endless supply."

For her hefty donation to the lofty concept, Davison will be awarded a simple display card which explains the idea behind the art, and nothing more.

Health & Living

Science has delivered on HIV prevention. Now what?

ROME, Italy (AFP)- Scientists on Wednesday wrapped up their biggest forum in the 30-year history of AIDS, unveiling stunning weapons to prevent the spread of HIV.

But getting these impressive prototypes to the battlefield will take time. Not all may be suitable. And deploying them will need massive funding at a time of AIDS fatigue.

"Now it's up to the donors and the policymakers, with WHO (World Health Organisation) backup, to grab this epidemic by the horns and finally turn it around," said Eric Goemaere of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

The four-day conference in Rome will be remembered for these findings:

-- TREATMENT AS PREVENTION: Experts have long suspected that giving antiretroviral drugs to an HIV-infected person not only saves them from the death sentence of AIDS. It also ratchets down the virus to such low levels that the patient becomes a far smaller risk for infecting others with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

-- PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS: Known by its acronym as PrEP, this means giving antiretrovirals protectively to the non-infected partner, as opposed to the infected partner.

The risk of HIV transmission falls by up to 73 percent, ac-

cording to new trials reported in Rome.

But PrEP is likely to remain a niche rather than mainstream strategy, at least for now.

-- CIRCUMCISION: Efforts in Africa to promote male circumcision, which reduces the risk of HIV infection for men by 60 percent, were given a powerful boost by three studies.

New cases of HIV among men plunged by 76 percent after a circumcision programme was launched in a South African township. Had no circumcisions been carried out, new infections among the overall population would have been 58 percent greater.

-- QUEST FOR CURE: This once-unimaginable goal is

now firmly on the scientific agenda.

The idea is to attack the virus in "reservoirs", where it retreats after being suppressed by drugs.

But identifying these lairs, flushing out the virus and devising drugs to kill it is the big task. Even those who believe it attainable say it would be a "functional cure", in the same way that cancer goes into remission and its rebound cannot be ruled out.

The Rome conference gathered around 6,000 researchers, pharmacologists, epidemiologists and other experts under the banner of the International AIDS Society (IAS). They presented over 1,100 pieces of work, a record.

Michelle Obama launches attack on US food deserts

WASHINGTON.(AFP) - US First Lady Michelle Obama on Wednesday teamed up with major food retailers to launch an attack on "food deserts" as a key part of the US battle to bring down childhood obesity.

"We can give people all the information and advice in the world about healthy eating and exercise, but if parents can't buy the food they need to prepare those meals because their only options for groceries are the gas station or the local minimart, then all that is just talk," Obama said.

Many US inner cities are "food deserts," or areas where shops selling healthful foods are rare or expensive, and residents, many of them poor, live on cheap processed meals and sugary drinks, which pile on the pounds while providing scant nutritional benefits.

On Wednesday, major food retailers including Wal-Mart, Supervalu supermarkets and Walgreen's, pledged to open more than 1,500 shops over the next five years to sell fresh, nutritious foods in com-

munities throughout the country that are currently underserved.

The fight against "food deserts" is one of the linchpins in Obama's "Let's Move" campaign, launched last year to try to bring down the staggering rate of childhood obesity, which affects one in five children in the United States.

Melody Barnes, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said making healthy food affordable and accessible "is critical if we are to address the issue of childhood obesity."

Nearly half of kids with weight problems live in poverty and in neighborhoods with no shops that sell fresh foods, she added.

The other pillars of "Let's Move" include making American kids more active, improving the quality of school meals, offering kids more safe opportunities to be physically active, and educating them on good nutrition and healthy eating.

Gays: Drug study sees up to 92-percent cut in HIV risk

ROME, Italy (AFP) - Volunteers who responded most to a cocktail of antiretroviral drugs in an HIV prevention trial among gay men had a reduced risk of 92 percent of being infected by the AIDS virus, researchers said on Wednesday.

They presented the work as a last-minute, or "late-breaker", contribution to the world forum on AIDS science in Rome.

iPrEx explored the idea that an uninfected person taking daily AIDS drugs could be

shielded from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a novel approach called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP.

The overall findings, published last November, found that use of a drug called Truvada reduced HIV infections by 44 percent compared with a dummy pill, also called a placebo.

The new study looked at a sub-set of men who had the highest concentrations of the drug in their blood -- a telltale that they had been highly disciplined about taking the pill and that their system had also absorbed it better.

In this smaller group, the risk of HIV transmission was 92 percent lower compared to counterparts who took the placebo.

The study was conducted among 2,499 men, including 29 transgendered women, between the ages of 18 and 67 who were sexually active with other men but were not infected with HIV.

Research was carried out from July 2007 to December 2009 in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

A total of 100 HIV infections were recorded among the participants during the nearly three-year-long clinical study.

Of those, 36 were recorded among the 1,251 Truvada group and 64 among the 1,248 in the placebo group, showing that the drug reduced the risk of infection by 43.8 percent.

Tested among heterosexuals, PrEP showed a reduction in infection risk of up to 73 percent, according to studies presented in Rome.

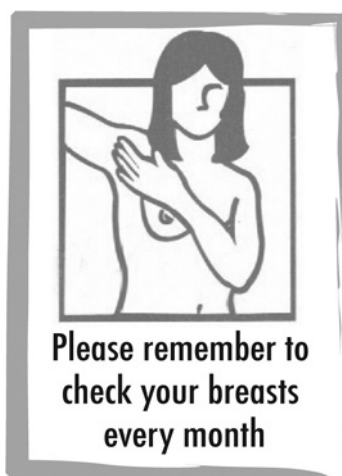
Japan child abuse cases jump 28 percent

TOKYO.(AFP)- The number of incidents recorded in the 12-month period surged by a record 12,090 to 55,152, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said.

The figures did not include cases for the two prefectures of Miyagi and Fukushima which were unable to collect data.

There were 43,062 cases of child abuse reported in the previous year in areas outside the disaster-hit region, representing a 28.1 percent increase.

A ministry official attributed the sharp increase to "growing public awareness," saying that more people were reporting reporting possible abuse cases to consultation centres, Kyodo News agency reported.



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Agnes van Ree-Tromp (35 yrs), Elsa Thielman-Rasmijn (30 yrs), Vilma Wever-Kock (30 yrs), and Madeleine "Madi" Gomez-Ras (30).

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Aruba Ariba unveiled at Divi Mega Resort



Aruba Ariba, a coffee-table book by Dutch photographer Theo Knevel was unveiled at the Divi Mega Resort. Theo, a resident of Bonaire, fell in love with Aruba when he was introduced to the island more than 20 years ago. Attracted to the beauty and the peaceful atmosphere he took the opportunity to capture the island from an unusual angle, flying high above the landscape, enjoying a dramatic and unspoiled perspective, which he paired with his own commentary, mixing aerial and ground shots with his per-

sonal stories in a lovely, easy to read and easy to pack, book.

The glossy, full color publication of 145 pages, is available for sale at all De Witt Stores within the local resorts and at the airport. The book makes for a gorgeous souvenir, or a meaningful gift from Aruba.

At the book reveal party, on the pool deck of Divi Mega Resort, Theo was surrounded by his local friends General Manager Marin Bijl, John Oster of S.E. Aruba Fly'N Dive who made it pos-

sible for Theo to fly around the island with his camera, and other sponsors and supporters who escorted him through the creative process.

In collaboration with the De Witt stores, Aruba Ariba made a contribution to Fundacion Papiamente, in charge of nurturing the love of books on the island.

Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes the CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority was guests of honor at the party having endorse the projects from its inception.



COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Speed limit abbr.
4. Actor Alda
8. Jazz great Fitzgerald
12. Timetable abbreviation
13. Portion
14. Spinnaker, e.g.
15. Make edging
16. Inside information
17. Reference
18. Hold in high regard
20. Ladd and Keaton
22. Stops
23. Chop
24. Conflicts
26. Renovated
30. Gun lobby (abbr.)
31. Demean
33. "___ Got Sixpence"
34. Magi (2 wds.)
36. Emulated Superman
37. ___ Moines
38. Between
40. Hold in esteem
43. Evolutionary scientist Charles
46. Third letters
47. Internet auction site
49. Frigid
50. Admired person

DOWN

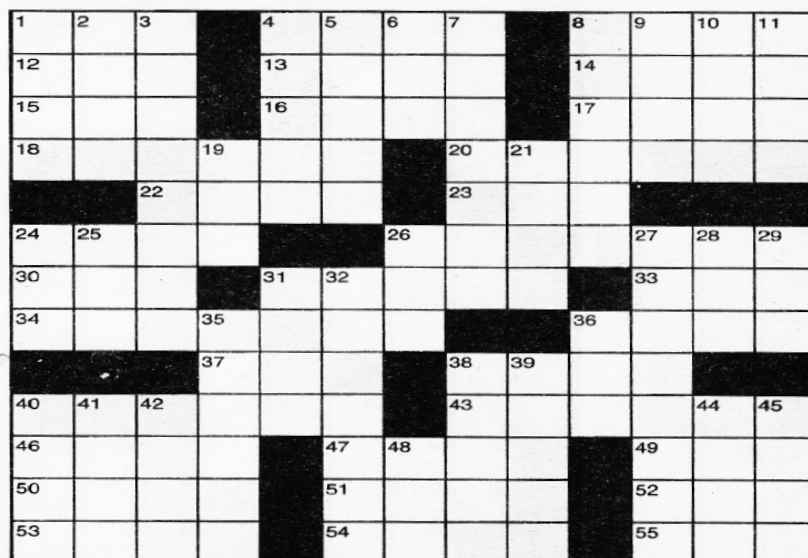
1. Measure (out)
2. Gps. that organize book sales and bake sales
3. Cape on Pamlico Sound
4. Put together
5. Weaving apparatuses
6. Cleopatra's snake
7. Sewing kit items
8. Flee
9. Reclined
10. Lo-cal word
11. Taverns' stock
19. They come after ems
21. Actress Skye
24. Opp. of ESE
25. Jackie O's second husband
26. Jogged
27. "The ___ West" (2 wds.)
28. Cain's mom
29. Lawn droplets
31. U.S. citizen (abbr.)
32. Implore

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35. Thomas Alva

36. Evergreen
38. John Quincy39. Perchance
40. Tooth discomfort
41. Illustrious act
42. Simple
44. Chilled
45. Where shares are traded (abbr.)
48. Ghost's cry

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Care Center
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	8	7	7	2	6	1	9	9
9	6	7	9	1	2	8	8	8
1	9	2	9	8	8	4	6	7
2	2	9	8	6	1	8	9	4
8	1	6	2	9	7	9	2	8
4	9	8	8	2	9	6	1	2
2	7	9	6	9	8	8	7	1
9	8	1	2	4	2	9	8	6
6	7	8	1	8	9	2	2	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Dollar falls amid US debt-limit standoff



NEW YORK.(AFP) - The dollar slumped on Wednesday as markets awaited a resolution to the debt-ceiling standoff in Washington, while the euro rose amid hopes for a productive eurozone summit in Brussels this week.

The dollar was trading for \$1.4212 against the euro at 2100 GMT in New York on Wednesday, compared to \$1.4150 late on Tuesday.

The greenback also weakened against the Japanese yen, trading for 78.77 yen, down from 79.21 a day earlier.

US President Barack Obama was set to meet with

opposition Republican leaders late Wednesday to seek a compromise solution to the debt-limit impasse, which could provoke a US government default if it is not resolved.

Obama has warned of economic "Armageddon" if the United States defaults on its debt and has urged Democrats and Republicans to work together to forge a deal on raising the government's \$14.29 trillion debt ceiling.

The White House has said Congress should approve a deal by Friday in order for the legislation to take effect by August 2, when the US Treasury says it could be forced to default unless it can borrow more money.

"If Friday comes to pass with no major news, we could see panic selling of US dollars," said Kathy Lien, director of currency research at GFT.

"The greenback traded lower against all of the major

currencies today while stocks held steady in anticipation of the big-event risks scheduled for the next 48 hours."

Meanwhile, eurozone leaders are set to gather for an emergency summit on the Greek debt crisis in Brussels on Thursday, and the euro climbed amid hopes that progress would be made at the summit, analysts said.

"Speculation of some agreement has helped lift the euro, peripheral bonds and generally has underpinned the risk appetite in recent days," said Marc Chandler, head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman.

The dollar weakened against the Swiss franc on Wednesday, falling to 0.8195 francs in late trading in New York from 0.8240 a day earlier.

It also lost ground against the British pound, weakening to \$1.6147 against the pound from \$1.6132 on Tuesday.

Oil prices climb as US crude stocks dive while US stocks slip as markets await debt resolution



NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices rose on Wednesday as news of declining US crude inventories signaled strengthening energy demand in the world's largest economy.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate light, sweet crude for August delivery, gained 64 cents to close at \$98.14 a barrel in its last day of trade.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for September delivery added \$1.09 to settle at \$118.15 a barrel.

Crude oil inventories in the United States fell 3.7 million barrels in the week ending

July 15, according to a weekly report from the US Department of Energy.

The decline was steeper than market expectations for a drop of 1.4 million barrels, according to analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires.

Oil markets also advanced on optimism that politicians in Washington would reach a deal to raise the US federal government's debt ceiling and avert a potentially catastrophic default, analysts said.

"We get the impression that the US is getting closer to a possible solution on the US debt ceiling. The market is also optimistic about the prospect for a European deal as well," said Bart Melek, head of commodity strategy for TD Securities.

US stocks fell slightly on Wednesday as investors waited for a resolution to the debt-ceiling stand off in Washington and digested a series of favorable company earnings reports.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 14.75 points (0.12 percent) to stand at 12,572.67 in closing trade.

The broader S&P 500 slipped 0.83 point (0.06 percent) to 1,325.90, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite tumbled 12.29 points (0.43 percent) to close at 2,814.23.

The retreat came a day after Wall Street enjoyed its strongest one-day rally this year, driven by robust earnings from companies like IBM and Coca-Cola.

EU seeks to tighten banking rules

BRUSSELS. (AFP) - The European Commission unveiled new banking rules Wednesday that would force banks to raise more capital and threaten sanctions to prevent risks that could trigger a new financial crisis.

The EU's executive arm unveiled a raft of measures to strengthen the resilience of the 27-nation bloc's 8,200

banks after many were bailed out during the global financial crisis in 2008.

EU internal markets commission Michel Barnier said Europe will become the world's first jurisdiction to begin implementing the banking sector's global Basel III agreement governing capital and liquidity requirements.

The banks will have to hold "more and better capital" to withstand future financial shocks on their own instead of relying on taxpayer-funded government bailouts, the commission said.

G20 nations, the world's developed and emerging powers, are required to gradually begin applying the Basel III rules on bank capital from 2013.



EU financial services commissioner Michel Barnier, pictured on March 15.

European lenders, which account for 53 percent of global banking sector assets, will have to triple their core capital ratio, raising 460 billion euros by 2019, Barnier said. They could also do this by setting aside part of their profits.

The commission proposed that EU financial supervisors be given new powers to monitor banks more closely and impose sanctions when they detect higher risk. A regulator

could for example force banks to limit credit when a bubble emerges.

The supervisors would have the ability to impose fines amounting to 10 percent of a bank's annual turnover, or temporarily suspend the activities of certain board members, if it fails to respect the new rules.

The Basel rules require banks to hold higher core capital reserves, raising them to the equivalent of 7.0 percent of the loans they give to clients, from a current 2.0 percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ALTS ETCH EMT
SEEP RUSE ROO
HOT AIR BALLOON
IDS PASSE
PLANE RISK
LOP AJAR ETAL
UNE LOYAL ALA
MIRE AONE LEN
PENN EMCEE
SNAIL SRI
MERCILESSNESS
URN ZEST DICE
TOE AWES SNIP

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Taj Mahal Restaurant in Oranjestad is an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS

chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka,



tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service al-

lows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

by Rosalie Klein



Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.
- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.
- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sun-

screen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.
- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.
- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.
- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.



- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.

Space shuttles will soon be museum pieces



CAPE CANAVERAL. (AFP) - The end of the US space shuttle program brings the start of a new chapter for the remaining orbiters, which will soon take up residence as museum pieces in Florida, Virginia, California and New York.

Discovery, the oldest space shuttle of the fleet, will land at the Steven F. Udvar Hazy Center, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space museum in Virginia, NASA announced in April.

Atlantis, the final shuttle to fly in space, will make its permanent home at Florida's Kennedy Space Center, host of repeated shuttle launches in the past three decades.

Endeavour will come home to roost at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

The prototype Enterprise, which never actually flew in space, will be sent to New York for display on a US aircraft carrier docked off Man-

hattan, the USS Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

"Each shuttle has stories to be told, history to be shared," said NASA chief Charles Bolden when the designations were first announced earlier this year.

The question of where the shuttles would be displayed prompted a flurry of speculation, as curators and lawmakers lobbied for the surge in tourists eager for an up-close look at the journeyed spacecraft.

NASA's hefty \$28 million price tag did little to dampen excitement and competition among nearly two dozen potential tourist spots and museums clamoring to house a piece of space history.

Those who missed out, including Texas, the home of Johnson Space Center and NASA's mission control, were vocal in their disappointment.

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison called the news "deeply disheartening," and said it was "unthinkable that

the home of human space flight would not represent the ideal home for a retired orbiter.

NASA said a series of shuttle artifacts that would be spread nationwide, including shuttle simulators for the Adler Planetarium in Chicago and Texas A&M's Aerospace Engineering Department.

Johnson Space Center in Houston would also get flight deck pilot and commander seats, NASA said.

For those who have worked closely with the shuttles, the thought of sending them off to new homes has been hard, and so has the prospect of 8,000 workers in the area around Cape Canaveral losing their jobs as the shuttle program ends.

"We have taken care of Discovery -- for me it has been the past 11 years that I have been part of this team," Stephanie Stilson, shuttle transition and retirement flow director, told AFP last month.

Clint Eastwood, aka 'Dirty Harry,' honors US cops



WASHINGTON. (AFP) - Movie icon Clint Eastwood, who once reveled in the role of hard-bitten San Francisco cop "Dirty" Harry Callahan, has paid a stirring tribute to US law enforcement officers.

Accepting to be honorary chairman of a National Law Enforcement Officers Museum in Washington that plans

to open its doors at the end of 2013, Eastwood, 81, said the project was "long overdue" and "richly deserved."

"On average, an officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in America every 53 hours. Some 60,000 officers a year are assaulted resulting in 16,000 injuries," Eastwood said in a written statement.

"Yet, despite those daunting risks, some 800,000 men and women go out every day to serve and protect us. I am deeply honored to help tell their heroic story of service and sacrifice."

The museum said Eastwood had lent his Dirty Harry image to help raise funds for the project, which will be near

an existing memorial paying tribute to the 19,298 police officers killed in the line of duty since 1791.

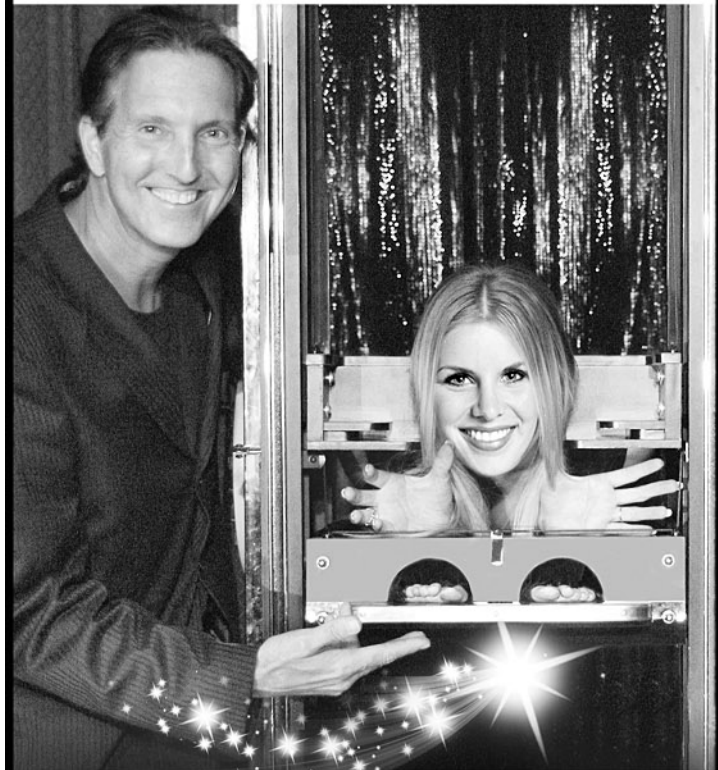
Construction of the museum, which will house exhibits reflecting the work of law enforcement, past and present, began at the end of 2010. A "Hall of Remembrance" will honor the fallen.

Some \$43 million of the estimated \$80 million cost of the project has already been collected, according to the museum.

Eastwood made his name in Sergio Leone's "spaghetti westerns" but cemented his Hollywood stardom by playing inspector Harry Callahan in five films during the 1970s and 1980s. He is now also a two-time Oscar-winning director

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WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

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Voeckler still in yellow as Hagen wins 17th stage

PINEROLO (AFP) - French rider Thomas Voeckler of the Europcar team retained the race leader's yellow jersey in the Tour de France after stage 17 on Wednesday despite going off the road in the final descent.

The hilly 179km stage from Gap to Pinerolo was won by Norwegian Edvald Boasson Hagen of the Sky team, who beat Dutch rider Bauke Mollema by 40 seconds.

France's Sandy Casar was third 50sec off the pace ahead of compatriots Julien El



Norway's Edvald Boasson Hagen celebrates on the finish line as he wins the 179 km and seventeenth stage of the 2011 Tour de France

Fares and Sylvain Chavanel.

Spaniard Alberto Contador made a vain attack on the

final Pramartino climb without being able to shake off his rivals.

In the descent, three-time Tour de France winner Contador took the lead with compatriot Samuel Sanchez but the pair were caught by their leading rivals Cadel Evans and brothers Andy and Frank Schleck.

Boasson Hagen, 24, was second on Tuesday's stage behind fellow Norwegian Thor Hushovd, giving their country a fourth win since the start of the event.

In the overall standings Voeckler's lead has been cut to just 1min 18sec on Evans.

Bin Hammam cries foul over FIFA corruption charges

PARIS (AFP) - Embattled former Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohamed bin Hammam has pointed a finger at his accusers as he prepares for a FIFA corruption hearing in Zurich beginning on Friday.

The 62-year-old Qatari has been suspended since May following allegations that he attempted to bribe Caribbean football officials to vote for him in the FIFA presidential election.

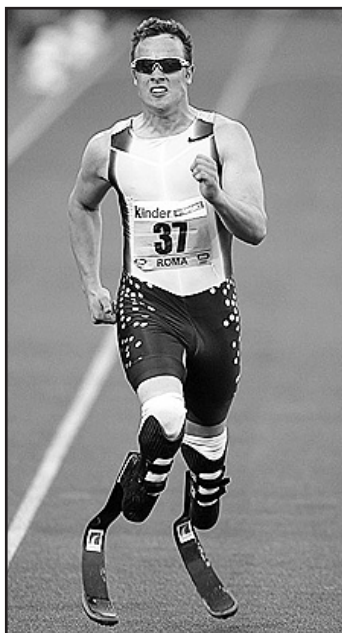
On Friday he will go before FIFA's ethics committee to learn his fate, but in a personal blog post written on Wednesday he asked: "Does it not surprise anyone that, although I have been suspended for the last seven weeks... for allegedly bribing individuals, none of those who it is claimed received those alleged inducements have faced similar action?" wrote Bin Hammam.

"Why was the FIFA ethics

committee in such a hurry to suspend me before the FIFA election took place, and then begin to search for evidence to find if I am guilty or not?"

"With just a few days to go before my hearing, there can be no doubt that there has been a campaign waged within certain quarters to ensure that I am seen to be guilty and eliminated from football in the court of public opinion, even before my hearing has started."

'Blade Runner' Pistorius a step closer to Olympics



PARIS (AFP) - Double amputee track sensation Oscar Pistorius has taken a step closer to taking part in the London Olympics next year after clocking a qualifying time of 45.07 seconds for the 400 metres.

The South African known as the "Blade Runner", who runs with carbon fibre prosthetic running blades, finished clear of the field in

Lignano, Italy, on Tuesday as he smashed his personal best of 45.61sec.

Importantly, he dipped under the crucial 45.25sec qualifying mark, meaning the 24-year-old four-time Paralympic gold medallist will become the first amputee sprinter to compete at the World Championships which get under way in Daegu, South Korea, on August 27.

"Needed a 45.25 A standard, ran a 45.07sec!" Pistorius said on his Twitter account, singling out coach Ampie Louw for thanks.

"Thank you to my team, Ampie especially.

"Feels kind of surreal to have an A-qualification time in the bag for next year's Olympic Games.

"Thank you all for your support.

He added: "Can't sleep I'm so happy. I have a dumb smile that's permanent!"

Pistorius, who had both legs amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old because of a congenital condition that meant he was born without fibulae - lower

leg bones, failed to qualify for the 400m at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

He had been given the green light to attempt to qualify for the Beijing Games after the Court of Arbitration for Sport overturned a ruling by the International Association of Athletics Federations that his blades gave him an unfair advantage.

Every national federation can select three athletes for the world championships or Olympics, providing they meet the 'A' standard, with only one allowed if they only meet the 'B' standard.

Before his outing on Tuesday, Pistorius was only ranked fourth among South African 400m runners behind LJ van Zyl, Ofentse Mogawane and Lebogang Moeng.

His new personal best of 45.07sec, good enough for fifth at the Beijing Games and fourth at the Berlin worlds in 2009, was 0.18 seconds inside the 'A' standard time.

Pistorius will also compete at the London 2012 Paralympics where he will look to retain his titles in the T44 100, 200 and 400m.



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No one better than us, says England's Strauss



LONDON (AFP) - England captain Andrew Strauss believes that his team have been the best in the world for the last two years and have the weapons to topple India from the top of the Test rankings.

India are currently number one in the ICC's Test Championship table and England third.

But England will leapfrog the Indians at the top of the rankings if they win the upcoming four-match series between the countries, which starts at Lord's here today, by two clear Tests.

"Our cricket over the last two years, I don't think there's been a side who has been better than us," Strauss told reporters at Lord's, his Middlesex home ground, on Wednesday.

"We've won seven out of eight series (including an Ashes triumph in Australia) and the other has been drawn (away to South Africa), but this is a new challenge for us.

"Our ultimate goal in the long term is not just to be the side who is number one in the

rankings but the side everyone agrees is the best side in the world.

"That's still a long-term goal regardless of whether we win or lose this series," the opening batsman added ahead of what will be the 2,000th Test ever played and the 100th between England and India.

And he insisted he was not taking lightly an India side who under captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni have shed their reputation as a 'soft touch' away from the sub-continent.

"You don't become the number one side without being able to play away from home as well and that's probably the greatest improvement they've made.

"They've been far more consistent away from home and have a lot of experienced batsmen who have played all over the world.

"We understand the extent of the challenge, it won't be easy, but I think in our home conditions we back ourselves to beat anyone.

Strauss prepared for the series by guesting for Somerset against India in the tourists lone warm-up match, scoring 78 and 109 not out in a drawn three-day match.

"As far as that three-day event went it couldn't have gone any better for me personally. I said before the game, though, it doesn't have a huge relevance over what will happen in this Test and I still stand by that," Strauss said.

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Woods parts with long-time caddie Williams



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former world number one golfer Tiger Woods announced on Wednesday he has parted company with his long-standing caddie Steve Williams after working together since March 1999.

Woods, a 14-time Major winner who is currently out of the sport with an injured left leg, made the announcement on his official website.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to Stevie for all his help, but I think it's time for a change," said Woods on his personal web-

site.

"Stevie is an outstanding caddie and a friend and has been instrumental in many of my accomplishments. I wish him great success in the future."

The 35-year-old added that he has not yet decided on a replacement as he continues his recovery from his injuries and has not made a decision on when to return to the PGA Tour.

Woods missed the British Open at Sandwich last week with knee and Achilles injuries having also missed the US Open last month.

Trailblazer Yao Ming retires

SHANGHAI, July 20, 2011 (AFP) - Basketball star Yao Ming announced his retirement on Wednesday after a trailblazing career that made him China's best-known athlete and helped spur the game's global growth.

The towering 2.29m (7ft 6in) star made the announcement, which had been widely expected, during a press conference in his home city of Shanghai after his last two seasons with the Houston Rockets were dogged by injuries.

Yao, 30, said he had "waited and hoped that I could return" from a broken foot last year.

"It was a frustrating period and many thoughts crossed my mind. Today I would like to announce my personal decision to formally retire as a basketball player," he said.

Yao added he planned to focus on his role as owner of the Shanghai Sharks, the team where he started his professional career and which he bought in 2009.

The NBA All-Star, who has used his fame to confront Chinese taboos ranging from the treatment of people with HIV to boycotting shark fin soup, said he would also promote philanthropy in China.

In a choreographed news conference, Yao stayed composed as he stood at a custom-made oversized podium and recalled receiving his first ball at age four and donning his father's old number at 16 for the Shanghai Sharks.

Yao then joined the Rockets as the first pick in the 2002 NBA draft amid scepticism about whether the signature product of China's massive state sports system would ever earn the affection of the league's fans.

But he won over Americans and became an adored national icon in China



through his strong play -- when fit -- and his grace and poise. He was not China's first player in the NBA, but he was certainly the best-known.

He exhibited that same grace during his retirement announcement, switching to English to offer a "special thanks" to the city of Houston.

"I would like to thank you for giving me a great nine-year career," he said.

"Nine years ago I came to Houston as a young, tall,

skinny player and the entire city and team changed me into a grown man, not only a basketball player."

Although his size was his strength, the rigours of top-flight basketball proved too much for Yao's massive frame and his career has been marked by lengthy absences from the court due to a succession of mostly foot and leg injuries.

Nonetheless, he was China's first global sports superstar with a personal brand valued at more than \$1 billion.

The eight-time NBA all-star routinely tops Forbes' list of China's most valuable celebrities and his international appeal has in the past led to endorsement deals with Nike, Pepsi, McDonald's and China Telecom.

But the brand he has done the most to promote is the NBA. China has become the league's biggest market outside the US since he began playing with an estimated 300 million fans.

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Experience key for Copa finalists Uruguay



Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (L) celebrates with teammate forward Diego Forlan after scoring 2 goals LA PLATA (AFP) - Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said experience and stability were the key factors behind his side's run to the Copa America final after the Charruas

If I were Batista, I'd quit - Maradona

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Diego Maradona said on Tuesday that were he Argentina coach Sergio Batista he would quit following the side's early Copa America exit.

The Argentine Football Association says it will keep Batista on as coach despite their quarter-final loss on penalties to Uruguay - he only succeeded Maradona after last summer's World Cup quarters loss to Germany.

saw off Peru 2-0 in Tuesday's semi.

Although the Uruguayans started the tournament in unspectacular fashion with group stage draws against the Peruvians and Chile, they began to fire up with a win over Mexico before a penalty shootout success over hosts Argentina.

The River Plate battle against Argentina was a huge psychological boost as both sides had gone into the event with 14 Copa titles, and now Tabarez's men can secure a record 15th if they see off either Venezuela or Paraguay on Sunday.

Tuesday's win over Peru -- with both goals coming from Luis Suarez -- was Uruguay's first at the Copa in 28 years and Tabarez was delighted to have ended the run.

"We had to draw on all our experience. The group have known each other a long time," said Tabarez, who has been in the job almost six years -- by far his longest coaching post after a string of

mainly short-term club appointments.

"We are very very happy to be in the final -- but Sunday is still a long way away. We will need to maintain our organisation and discipline," said Tabarez, who added it was vital to have a strong element of continuity through from the younger teams up to the senior squad.

Of his possible opponents Tabarez saluted Venezuela for bringing a breath of fresh air to the tournament with their surprising run.

"What they have done is historic and very well deserved. Paraguay, meanwhile,

have their historic style which is always difficult to play against."

While Tabarez provides continuity in the dugout, Diego Forlan, star of the last World Cup, provides it on the pitch and won his 81st cap having broken his country's appearance record against Argentina with an authoritative showing.

But the Atletico Madrid man stressed there was still a lot to do to win the cup, despite being favourites after Brazil and Argentina's flop.

"People will make us the favourites -- but we know we have a difficult task ahead,"

insisted the 32-year-old.

Midfielder Alvaro Pereira also warned that over-confidence could be as big a problem as their opponents come the final.

"This is an important win, but we must keep our feet on the ground," Pereira said.

Peru's Uruguayan coach Sergio Markarian congratulated his compatriots.

"We have to accept that it's the end of our adventure. But we go out with our heads held high. I was pleased with my team. We have shown we are competitive."

"It hurts to lose but we must congratulate Uruguay."



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